In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 6, 12, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 26 and cancel claim 14.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

an input port configured to receive a stream of key codes transmitted from a keyboard;

a filtering module, operably connected with the input port and comprising a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted, the filtering module configured to block selected key codes and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes in accordance with the rules table; and

an output port, operably connected with the filtering module, the output port configured to pass the unblocked key codes to a host computer.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is implemented independent of the keyboard and the host computer.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module further comprises a processor configured to execute computer code for blocking the selected key codes and combinations of key codes.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filtering module further comprises a memory device connected to the processor for storing the computer code.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the key codes comprise make key codes

-4-

corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a unique make key code and a unique release key code.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module further comprises:

~~a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted;~~

a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module comprises a microcontroller.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the microcontroller is configured to operate using power received from the host computer.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the filtering module is exclusively provided by electrical hardware.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the functionality of the filtering module

-5-

is provided by a combination of electrical hardware and computer software.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filtering module is located proximate to at least one of the keyboard and the host computer.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the method comprising:

intercepting a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer;

maintaining a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted;

blocking, independently from the keyboard and host computer, at least one of the intercepted key codes; and

passing the unblocked key codes from the stream of key codes to the host computer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, and wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a make key code and a release key code.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

maintaining a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been

-6-

received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

maintaining a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein blocking further comprises blocking exclusively with hardware.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein blocking further comprises blocking with a combination of hardware and software.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising reprogramming a memory device to alter a set of at least one of the selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the system comprising:

a keyboard;

a key code filter comprising a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted, the key code filter configured to receive a stream of key codes from the keyboard and block at least one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes in accordance with the rules table; and

a host computer configured to receive unblocked key codes from the key code

-7-

filter.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the key code filter is implemented independent of the keyboard and the host computer.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a key code filter configured to intercept a stream of key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer and to maintain a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted; and

the key code filter further configured to block transmission of at least one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes of the stream of key codes.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the computer-readable medium comprising computer code configured to carry out a method comprising:

receiving and transmitting key codes to and from a keyboard and host computer; and

maintaining a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted; and

blocking, independently from the keyboard and host computer, at least one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes.

-8-

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the key codes comprise make key codes corresponding to keys that are pressed, and release key codes corresponding to keys that are released, wherein each key on the keyboard is characterized by a make key code and a release key code.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the filter module further comprises:

~~a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, wherein each rule determines whether a key code is blocked or transmitted;~~

maintaining a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received ~~by the filter module~~; and

maintaining a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received ~~by the filter module~~ and wherein blocking one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes comprises consulting the block list.

25. (Original) An apparatus for filtering out selected key codes transmitted between a keyboard and a host computer, the apparatus comprising:

a filtering module configured to receive a stream of key codes and block at least one of selected key codes, sequences of key codes, and combinations of key codes, the filtering module comprising:

a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is blocked or transmitted;

a make list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and

-9-

transmitted to the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received; and

a block list containing a list of make key codes that have been received and blocked from the host computer and for which corresponding release key codes have not been received.

26. (Currently Amended) A user interface terminal, comprising:

An input device designed to enable a user to input instructions to the user interface terminal;

A processing system designed to receive instructions from the input devicesystem, process the instructions, and provide responses to the user; and

A filtering system operatively coupled between the input device and processing systems and comprising a rules table containing key codes and rules associated with each key code, each rule determining whether a key code is to be blocked or transmitted, the filtering system designed to receive all instructions from the input devicesystem, filter out certain instructions in accordance with the rules table, and forward all non-filtered instructions to the processing system.

27. (Original) The user interface terminal of claim 26, wherein the input device is provided within a kiosk.

28. (Original) The user interface terminal of claim 26, wherein the input device comprises a touch screen.

29. (Original) The user interface terminal of claim 26, wherein the input device

-10-

comprises a keyboard.

30.   (Original) The user interface terminal of claim 26, wherein the input device comprises a voice recognition system.

-11-